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corrected filing receipt will be requested shortly to correct any priority indication.

The specification has been amended to correct minor deficiencies thereto pointed out by the Examiner. Approval is now requested.

With respect to the objection to the specification as being deficient under 37 CFR 1.71, Applicant has canceled claim 2 and has rewritten claim 1 to clarify the language therein giving rise to the objection. Accordingly, this objection should have been overcome. The corresponding objection to the drawings has been obviated as well.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, on the basis that the claimed contact pin lower end section allegedly lacks an enabling disclosure. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

According to an exemplary implementation, the lower end sections of the contact pins are movably supported by the socket body. This feature is described on page 6, line 24 through page 7, line 1 of the specification in connection with the discussion of Fig. 2. In compliance with the Examiner's requirement that a drawing be added better illustrating how the contact pins are supported, a new Fig. 8 is submitted herewith which shows an

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enlarged perspective of a lower end section of a contact pin shown in Fig. 2. No new matter is presented by the addition of Fig. 8. One skilled in the art would recognize that nothing new shown i.e. nothing that was not already included in Fig. 2 or otherwise readily derivable from the above-mentioned sections of the specification. In light of amendments to the remaining claims and the comments above, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-10 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C, 103 (a) as being unpatentable over RIOS, or Masami, or Fugamichi, each taken alone or in combination with one another or in combination with Busacco, Petersen or Japan 6-20396. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is now amended to better clarify the language used to describe the invention as well as to patentably distinguish the invention over the cited references.

As a result of the construction of an IC socket recited in claim 1, when a cover member thereof is closed, a compression force is applied to contact pins disposed along an upper and lower side of a socket body. Because the middle section of a contact pin is arc-shaped which causes it to act as a spring, the compression force is distributed over the entire arc instead of

being concentrated on one point. The inherently-resilient nature of the contact pin configuration also contributes to the force being distributed over the entirety of its arc. The claimed contact pin construction assures stable contact pressure. The contact pin was also found to be highly endurable under a heat-resistance test. By virtue of the use of such pins in an IC socket, as claimed, stable contact pressure and high endurance is realized.

Further in accordance with the claimed invention, upper and lower corners are formed where the arc-shaped middle section meets the upper and lower ends sections, respectively. These corners are of simple construction yet very effectively limit the movement of the upper and lower end sections relative to the floating member and the socket body, respectively.

The arc-shaped middle section of a contact pin as disclosed in each of the cited references does not include the claimed upper and lower corner sections. Accordingly, no such means is provided for limiting the movement of the upper and lower end sections. In the cited references, the lower end sections of the contact pins are fixed to the socket body instead of being movably disposed. Hence, the positional coordination of the upper end sections must rely on a complicated dimensioning of

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upper end sections to limit movement in any way. The prior art constructions are highly inefficient for this reason.

The arc-shaped middle section of the contact pin according to the present invention is also more efficient than the L-shaped middle section disclosed by Busacco et al. An L-shaped construction does not permit positioning of the contact pins -- relative to the floating member or its guide holes -- to be more accurately determined. As a result, the L-shaped construction does not permit closer regulation of, for example, biting into solder balls by the contact portions of the contact pins.

In sum, the structure and effect of the IC socket constructions described in each of the cited references are very different from the claimed construction. In fact, all the constructions are sufficiently different from one another such that one skilled in the art would have no motivation to combine features to arrive at the claimed IC socket device.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, therefore, independent claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

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Please charge any fees due in this respect to Deposit
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Respectfully submitted,

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